

Amendments to the Claims

Please enter the following amendments to Claims 15-16, 18-19, and 21-22; add new Claims 24-26; and cancel Claims 1-14 and 23. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present invention.

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer system for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options ~~to a first party~~ without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

computer system means for providing a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options ~~to the first party~~ without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

computer system means for providing calculating a plurality of possible option value prices during the first part of the decision period;

computer system means for receiving an election to transfer employee stock options from a first set of employees during the first part of the decision period based on the possible option value prices;

computer system means for determining a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

computer system means for determining a particular one of the plurality of possible option value prices corresponding to the determined stock price during the second part of the decision period;

computer system means for receiving an election to transfer employee stock options from a second set of employees during the second part of the decision period based on the determined particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

computer system means for transferring the employee stock options from the first set of employees to the first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock options; and

computer system means for providing at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value prices to the first set of employees in exchange for the transfer.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

computer system means for providing a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options;

computer system means for providing a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

computer system means for determining [[an]] possible option value prices using an option pricing formula during a first part of each decision period;

computer system means for providing the option value price during each decision period;

computer system means for receiving an election for transfer of employee stock options during the first part of a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock

options, wherein an exact option value price has yet to be determined during the first part of a particular decision period;

computer system means for determining the exact option value price during a second part of the particular decision period; and

after the particular decision period, computer system means for executing an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options ~~to a first party~~ without exercise of the stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options ~~to the first party~~ without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide calculate a plurality of possible option value prices during the first part of the decision period;

code to receive an election to transfer employee stock options from a first set of employees during the first part of the decision period based on the possible option value prices;

code to determine a stock price during the second part of the decision period;

code to determine a particular one of the plurality of possible option value prices corresponding to the determined stock price during the second part of the decision period;

code to receive an election to transfer employee stock options from a second set of employees during the second part of the decision period based on the determined particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to transfer the employee stock options from the first set of employees to the first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option; and

code to provide at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value prices to the first set of employees in exchange for the transfer.

19. (Currently Amended) A programmed computer for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide calculate a plurality of possible option value prices during the first part of the decision period;

code to receive an election to transfer employee stock options from a first set of employees during the first part of the decision period based on the possible option value prices;

code to determine a stock price during the second part of the decision period;
code to determine a particular one of the plurality of possible option value prices
corresponding to the determined stock price during the second part of the decision period;

code to receive an election to transfer employee stock options from a second set
of employees during the second part of the decision period based on the determined particular
one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to transfer the employee stock options from the first set of employees to the
first party following the second part of the decision period, without exercise of the stock option;
and

code to provide at least part of the particular one of the plurality of option value
prices to the first set of employees in exchange for the transfer.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer
executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of employee stock options from
employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock
options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock
options from the employees holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the
stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to determine [[an]] possible option value prices using an option pricing
formula during a first part of each decision period;

~~code to provide the option value price during each decision period;~~
~~code to receive an election for transfer of employee stock options during the first~~
~~part of a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options, wherein an exact~~
~~option value price has yet to be determined during the first part of a particular decision period;~~

code to determine the exact option value price during a second part of the
particular decision period; and

after the particular decision period, code to execute an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options.

22. (Currently Amended) A programmed computer for transfer of previously issued employee stock options from employees holding the employee stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from the employees holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to determine [[an]] possible option value prices using an option pricing formula during a first part of each decision period;

~~code to provide the option value price during each decision period;~~
~~code to receive an election for transfer of employee stock options during the first~~
~~part of a particular decision period from an employee holding the stock options, wherein an exact~~
~~option value price has yet to be determined during the first part of a particular decision period;~~

code to determine an actual option value price during a second part of the
particular decision period; and

after the particular decision period, code to execute an order for transfer of the employee stock options from the employee holding the stock options to the first party without exercise of the stock options.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (New) The computer system of claim 15, further comprising computer system means for prorating transfer of only the employee stock options tendered by the second set of employees, by transfer of less than a total number of options tendered by the second set of employees.

25. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising code to prorate transfer of only the employee stock options tendered by the second set of employees, by transfer of less than a total number of options tendered by the second set of employees.

26. (New) The programmed computer of claim 19, further comprising code to prorate transfer of only the employee stock options tendered by the second set of employees, by transfer of less than a total number of options tendered by the second set of employees.